

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

(Read at the Bethel S. S. at Zionsville, Ohio, by Obed L. Helser.)

In writing these commandments, God, the creator of the universe, is the inspired writer. In giving these ten commandments, he speaks very plainly and distinctly so as to be understood by the just and the unjust. These commandments were written on tables of stone. God gave them for us to obey, that we might be true to his word, and work out our soul salvation. He said, "I am the Lord thy God." Jehovah, the eternal, and self-existing God. In the first commandment God spake these words, "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me. Here he is speaking to individuals. He warns you and me that he is the only true and living God, and that none other we should worship. How blessed and true are his words that he gives to us. They are as a lamp to our feet, in guiding us in making our choice of a true and never failing God. God is true to all mankind. He would not have one sinner misdirected in seeking for a true and divine father.

The second commandment is, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image." How many to day make a representation of God, in order to bow to them and worship them. God speaks to us and warns us not to worship a false God. If we had more true Christians to-day the false God's would not be worshipped to any extent. Let us learn a lesson in this one great commandment, and cling to a never failing God. One of which if we ask it shall be given,

We cannot afford to bow down to worship a false God. Time is passing and eternity is drawing nearer every moment of our life. And this short period of time should be spent in worshipping a true God.

The third commandment is, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Here is a command that is disobeyed by many. We need but step out on the streets of our cities and hear men and women take the name of God in vain. And on our public highways we can hear them blaspheme the name of God. But those who do this will be held accountable before a true and just God. This has become a common thing to many of the people to-day. They do not realize what great sin they are committing.

The fourth commandment is, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." The word remember implies an established fact that we should not forget that God has given us a day of rest. And this we are to keep holy. Not go and commit some wrong deed and lead others farther away from God, but attend our Sabbath

schools, and preaching, and try to live a fit subject for Christ's kingdom.

The fifth commandment is, "Honor thy father and thy mother." Here implies another great command to honor our father and mother. Treat them with reverence; cause them to live closer to our divine Father; help them in the duties of life; not provoke them by doing many things against their advice. Too often is a child disobedient to its father and mother, thinking that it knows best what to do. Here is where many children commit a great sin in breaking this command by not honoring their father and mother. We also have the promise that our days will be long upon the land that the Lord our God giveth. Let us give reverence to our father and mother, and help them to overcome the trials of life. By so doing we can be sure of winning their love and obeying this blessed command.

In the sixth commandment we have these words, "Thou shalt not kill." This command implies to you and me that this we must not do, take the life of our fellowmen. Often we are provoked and become angry. Our anger burns within us and we feel that we could take the life of some person, yet God warns us that we must not kill. And if we do not obey, we are in danger of judgment. To-day our penitentiaries are filled with men and women. What has brought them there? A great many of them are brought there just for one single word "murder." There is a day fast approaching when those who have committed murder must answer before God for this deed. But then it will be forever too late.

The seventh commandment is, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." This command is disobeyed many times. Although God with his all seeing eye points out each individual who tramples his commands under foot.

The eighth commandment is, "Thou shalt not steal." How often we are led to do this act, which brings us into shame and disgrace. We at many times imagine that it is not wrong to steal small things. Yet here we are breaking this command. We ought to be more careful and not become enticed to this low, mean, and disgraceful work. If we live nearer to God he will give us all the necessities of life that we may not break his command. Let us become willing active workers in his vineyard, and he will provide for all of our wants.

In the ninth commandment are these words, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." We find in this command that it demands truthfulness

under all circumstances. It forbids the worst form of lying. We also find this to be a summons to hold in sacred regard the personal reputation of every child of God. So many times we are enticed to bear false witness against our neighbor. We go and tell others that our neighbor did this and that. Yet it is a falsehood. God does not want us to engage in this sinful work. He will forgive man many times, but if we carry this on to a great extent he will think we are not trying to obey his work. Let us put away all lying and not let it again be uttered by any of us.

We find in the tenth commandment these words, "Thou shalt not covet." Covetousness is a strong or inordinate desire to possess. It lies in the depth of the heart and mind, and from it comes great sin. So let us not covet our neighbor's house. In summing up these commandments we have summed up the whole duty of man. Not only his duty to God but to his fellowmen. Now as we have these commandments before us, let us love his word, obey his divine precepts, and he will bless us abundantly as his dear children. We all must acknowledge that we have broken these commandments, and are sinful creatures before God. Let us put our trust in God, and confess our sins; be co-laborers in his vineyard; show to fallen humanity their lost condition, and try to live wholly consecrated lives. By so doing we have the promise of a just God that we can inherit a home where the redeemed forever give praises unto God.

REFRESHING SHOWERS.

W. C. PERRY.

Middle Indiana is rejoicing over recent rains. In five days this week, we have had four good rains and the prospects for more are very favorable. These rains are of untold value to the people of Indiana. Corn, potatoes, some other vegetables, and grass, all will be saved from drought. How good! Truly these showers of rain are expressions of God's goodness, and should be considered as "showers of blessing." He had not forgotten his people. When our hearts began to fail us in long dry weather and we almost murmured against Him, He was as good unto us and as near us as now when the showers are here. But then, we could not always believe it.

We walk in our relation to God so much by sight and therefore, when we can not always see God's blessings with our natural eye, we fear and become impatient toward Him.

Three things, after receiving the benefits of these refreshing showers, we should do.